

# MINUTES

## City Council Meeting Monday, April 1, 2013 – 7:00 p.m.

**Call to Order:** Mayor Holder welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Opening:** Mayor Pro-tem George offered the opening prayer and Mayor Holder invited everyone to join in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

**Roll Call:**

**Members:** Mayor Holder presided. **Council Members:** Don Bethune, Bruce Campbell, Rosetta Cody, Scott George, Bessie Kicklighter and Judy Shuman

**Staff Members:** Brian Johnson, City Manager; Ron Feldner, Deputy City Manager; Rhonda Ferrell-Bowles, Clerk of Council; James P. Gerard, City Attorney; Ben Brengman, IT Director; Cory Salley, Finance Director; Scott Allison, PED Director; David Lyons, Chief of Police; Jimmy Crosby, Fire Chief; Cliff Ducey, Parks & Recreation Director and Benny Googe, Public Works Director. **Absent:** Pam Franklin, HR Director and Charles Draeger, Water Operations Director.

Mayor Holder said City Council held a pre-agenda session prior to tonight's meeting. He said no decisions were made during the pre-agenda session.

**Informal Public Comment:** Mayor Holder opened the floor to receive informal public comment from the audience.

Mr. Ethridge, 12 Briarwood Drive, said the property the County plans to construct the access road on is next to my property. He said I received a letter from the County that stated the project is 15 months away, but today they started cutting off the gas to the house getting ready to demo it. He said before this is done I feel all options should be investigated prior to the start of the project.

A resident at 17 Briarwood Drive, said when they tear down the house on the property to construct the access road it will have a negative effect on our property value. He said they could rent equipment that can get back there to maintain the canal without having to construct a road. He said the engineer told me they wanted to build the road to make it easier for employees to access the canal to maintain it.

A resident on Daniel Avenue, said the County had an access road at the end of Daniel Avenue and the trucks were always speeding down the road. She said Briarwood is not a straight shot like Daniel Avenue and it's going to be difficult for those trucks to maneuver Briarwood. She said there has got to be an easier way than going through the neighborhood.

Ms. Tice, 19 Briarwood Drive, said there were 18-wheelers on Briarwood during phase I construction. She said if the County goes through with this is the City going to back me up when my property floods. She said whom do I call when the water comes up under my house. She said I hate to leave my house and Garden City, but this is driving us out of Garden City.

Ms. Selph, 2622 Woodlawn, said I would like to volunteer to serve on the strategic planning committee. She said it is not a good decision to sell the Highway 80 property until after the strategic plan is completed. She said when the recreation assessment was done over 94% of the residents surveyed wanted more parks/recreation areas and recreation facilities. She said Council should take into consideration what the residents want and protect our interests. She said wait until the ten year plan is complete before making the decision to sell the property.

A resident at 17 Briarwood Drive, said I attend the meeting with the County and the engineers held at the Senior Center. He said they pretty much blew us off and were unprepared to answer our questions about the access road. He said they are not taking us seriously. He said I plan to file a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act and submit it to them, because I don't feel we are being told everything.

Mayor Holder said it is 15 months before the project is to begin. He asked the City Manager to stay on top of what is going on with the project.

Ms. Tice, 19 Briarwood Drive, said does the County have to get a permit to tear down the house.

City Manager said yes, but it is only to make sure that everything is done in accordance with the law. He said we don't have the ability to say no.

Ms. Lawson, Smith Avenue, said I had water in my house during the last rain. She said when the City covered the canal behind Grover Lovett's house it started flooding my property. She said the water runs from Kim's house down to mine. She said Dean Kicklighter told me when he was Mayor that they would cover my ditch, but didn't. She said I can't get flood insurance. She said when Andy Quinney was Mayor he sold insurance and he was unable to get my house insured with flood insurance. She said something has to be done.

Councilmember Kicklighter said I believe Grover filled in that ditch not the City.

Ms. Lawson said it was the City that filled in Grover's ditch and Hoppy Sim's ditch.

Mr. Smith, 6 Briarwood Drive, said my concern is that the wetlands want be able to hold the water when it's filled in to make the access road.

There being no further questions or comments, Mayor Holder closed the informal public comment portion of the meeting.

**City Council Minutes:** Upon motion by Councilmember Kicklighter, seconded by Councilmember Cody, City Council voted unanimously to approve the minutes dated 3/18/13.

**Staff Reports:**

PED Director presented the Planning & Economic Development Department's monthly status report.

In the absence of the HR Director the City Manager presented the Human Resources Department's monthly status report.

IT Director presented the Information Technology Department's monthly status report.  
Public Works Director presented the Public Works Department's monthly status report.

Parks & Recreation Director presented the Parks & Recreation Department's monthly status report.

Councilmember Bethune said everyone did a fine job on the Easter Eggstravaganza. He said the turnout for the event was good. He thanked staff for taking care of several items that needed to be repaired prior to the event at Sharon Park.

**Items for Consideration:**

**Resolution to Award Probationary Services Contract:** Mayor Holder presented for consideration a resolution authorizing the Judge of the Municipal Court of Garden City to enter into a contract with Professional Probation Services, Inc., for the provision of private probation services to misdemeanor and ordinance offenders; authorizing the Mayor to execute the contract on behalf of City Council to evidence City Council's consent to the private probation services of Professional Probation Services, Inc., and to the Judge's entering into the agreement with Professional Probation Services, Inc.; to provide an effective date; and for other purposes.

Mayor Pro-tem George thanked the Briarwood folks for attending the meeting. He said I talked with County Commissioner Center about this matter and the road being constructed on 10 Briarwood was not part of the original plan. He said we will make sure that everything is done that can be.

**Executive Session:** Upon motion by Councilmember Kicklighter, seconded by Councilmember Shuman, City Council voted unanimously to enter into executive session at 7:40 p.m., for the purpose of discussing or deliberating upon the appointment, employment, compensation, hiring, disciplinary action or dismissal, or periodic evaluation or rating of a public officer or employee as provided in O.C.G.A. Section 50-14-3(b)(2).

Upon motion by Councilmember Bethune, seconded by Councilmember Campbell, City Council voted unanimously to adjourn the executive session and enter back into regular session at 8:50 p.m.

**Adjournment:** Upon motion by Councilmember Kicklighter, seconded by Councilmember George, City Council voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:55 p.m.

***Transcribed by Rhonda Ferrell-Bowles, Clerk of Council***  
***Approved by City Council 4-15-13***